

RGS BIOLOGISTS
2006 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
Dan Dessecker – January 2007

NATIONAL/REGIONAL LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Finalized efforts with US Departments of Agriculture and the Interior to establish a Council to advise the Secretaries to ensure that issues of importance to hunters and wildlife are addressed during federal agency decision-making processes. Formation of Sporting Conservation Council announced 23 March at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. Council was established consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. RGS' Director of Conservation Policy is one of 12 members selected to serve on this Council.
- Chaired Sporting Conservation Council Subcommittee charged with sustaining the health of forest, rangeland and wetland habitats. Prepared input from SCC to Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior on improvements to the Endangered Species Act.
- Prepared input from Sporting Conservation Council to Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior on the need to incorporate ecological relative risk assessments into land management planning processes, particularly those that involve threatened or endangered wildlife. Provided specific language to the Secretaries designed to expedite project planning where ESA considerations are involved.
- Developed recommendation from Sporting Conservation Council to Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior regarding sage ecosystem conservation and energy development.
- Worked with other partner organizations of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between the wildlife conservation community and the various federal land management agencies. The purpose of the proposed MOU is to enhance access and opportunity for hunting on federal lands.
- Worked with other partner organizations of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to secure increased support for Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit program.

- Worked with other partner organizations of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to generate support for HR 4200 (Forest Emergency Restoration and Research Act) in the US House and Senate. Submitted letters of support from RGS for HR 4200 to seven key fence-sitting Representatives just prior to floor vote.
- Worked with other partner organizations of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to generate support for reauthorization of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act.
- Worked with other partner organizations of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to assess implications of Administration proposal to sell selected federal lands to generate funding for the Secure Rural Schools and Communities Act.
- Worked with the American Wildlife Conservation Partners to investigate opportunities for standardizing data collection, storage and distribution among federal land management agencies and between these agencies and the public.
- Met with representatives from 8 other leading wildlife conservation organizations to begin the development of a strategy to provide funding through the 2007 Farm Bill to enhance forest wildlife habitats on private lands.
- Served as Primary Editor of the Ruffed Grouse Conservation Plan, which was developed under the auspices of the Resident Game Bird Work Group of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. This was a 3-year effort to coordinate 14 authors and input from approximately 40 additional resource professionals to prepare a continent-wide status of ruffed grouse populations and habitats.
- Established woodcock habitat goals for the Great Lakes and Mid-Atlantic Regions for the American Woodcock Management Strategy. The Strategy is a cooperative effort between federal and state resource management agencies, RGS and other non-governmental organizations and the forest products industry designed to enhance woodcock conservation in North America.
- Met with staff from US House Resources and Agricultural Committees, Senate Public Lands and Forests Subcommittee and Council on Environmental Quality to promote legislation to secure the ability of federal land management agencies to utilize Categorical Exclusions during land management planning processes.
- Met with House Agriculture Subcommittee staff on 2007 Farm Bill and proposed FS use of Categorical Exclusions.
- Met with Senate Environment Subcommittee and House Resources Subcommittee staff to outline opportunities to improve the Endangered Species Act and, thereby, expedite on-the-ground habitat management projects.

- Met with US Department of Agriculture officials and approximately 30 key players in forest management, agricultural commodities, forest products, recreational management and wildlife advocacy interests to identify opportunities for enhanced forest management on federal and private lands in the Northeast.
- Developed and submitted RGS comments on Council on Environmental Quality proposal to alter the development and use of Categorical Exclusions on.
- Attended public Listening Session for Bush Administration Cooperative Conservation initiative. Voiced RGS support for Farm Bill programs beneficial to wildlife and for improvement of the Endangered Species Act.
- Summarized the analysis of ruffed grouse and woodcock data collected during the first 24 years of the National Hunt. Summary provided to 2006 Hunt participants, the media and MN legislators.
- Co-authored paper summarizing research on ruffed grouse population cycles using data collected at the National Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Hunt.
- Edited RGS-authored chapters of book documenting the results of the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project.
- Reviewed data analysis procedures used in development of American Woodcock Management Strategy.
- Attended 10th Woodcock Symposium, gave presentation on challenge to woodcock conservation in the Great Lakes Region, and participated in Woodcock Conservation Plan implementation session.
- Participated in the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association as a non-voting Board Member.

FINANCIAL GRANTS RECEIVED

Total received: \$ 160,945

Secured \$17,000 Mellon Foundation grant for cooperative project with Ohio Department of Natural Resources and a coal company.

Secured \$15,000 Mellon Foundation grant for cooperative work with WV Department of Natural Resources on 8 public land tracts.

Secured \$25,000 grant from the Shelden Foundation for habitat management projects in Michigan.

Facilitated application for and receipt of \$15,000 grant from the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative for the River Hill's Forest Habitat Project in east central Missouri.

Facilitated transmittal of \$18,701 grant to RGS for biologist staff work associated with the development of the Ruffed Grouse Conservation Plan and the American Woodcock Conservation Plan.

Facilitated transmittal of \$12,644 grant to RGS for biologist staff work associated with the development of the Ruffed Grouse Conservation Plan and the American Woodcock Conservation Plan.

Coordinated development of a Corporate Sponsor package with Louisiana Pacific that included a \$15,000 cash contribution toward support of the WI COVERTS over two years.

Secured \$7,600 Wisconsin Environmental Education Board Grant dedicated toward support for Wisconsin COVERTS Project.

Secured \$25,000 in contributions dedicated toward habitat management projects from two individual donors.

Secured \$10,000 grant from Orvis in support of shrubland habitat restoration on the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont.

PROJECTS FUNDED

Total Funding Provided: \$ 128,043 *

*** \$ 109,248 of this total was from contributions restricted by state law or the donor to funding project activities.**

Alaska:

Matanuska-Susitna Moose Range – Provided \$20,000 to non-commercially regenerate overmature stands of aspen. This is the 5th year of a long-term project to diversify the age-class structure of deciduous forest habitats on the moose range.

Nenana Ridge - Provided \$6,000 to non-commercially regenerate overmature stands of aspen; controlled burning was the principal habitat management practice employed. This is the 10th year of a long-term project to diversify the age-class structure of deciduous forest habitats on this portion of the Nenana Ridge State Forest.

Georgia: - Distributed \$1,850 grant to Georgia Department of Natural Resources to purchase a chemical sprayer. This machine will be used to control invasive and other unwanted vegetation on herbaceous openings and timber harvest access trails.

Iowa:

Yellow River State Forest – RGS provided \$2,000 (from memorial project funds obtained by Iowa Chapter) to support ruffed grouse habitat improvements on the Yellow River State Forest.

Northeast Iowa Wildlife Areas - \$7,645 of RGS funds (provided by RGS prior to 2006) were utilized on four projects in NE Iowa during 2006. These projects included tree planting and timber stand improvement work on the Sny MaGill Wildlife Area, edge work on Coon Creek Wildlife Area and a portion of the costs of a 120 acre land acquisition project adjacent to a state wildlife area.

Maine:

West Branch – Made third of five \$1,000 payments to the Forest Society of Maine for the management of West Branch easement lands.

Michigan:

Ottawa National Forest – Initiated 5 year Challenge Cost Share Project with \$5,000 RGS Life Sponsor contribution. Work began in winter 2006/2007 to regenerate alder near the Baltimore River for woodcock habitat.

LeGrande Aspen Landscape Project – Provided \$5,000 grant to Michigan Department of Natural Resources to sustain aspen habitats on the LeGrande project site near Afton, Michigan. Initial project activities include the reconstruction of timber harvest/hunter access trail systems and herbaceous openings to facilitate aspen habitat management.

Minnesota:

Cass Bridge – Purchased a \$14,000 transportable bridge for Cass County. Bridge will be used to provide temporary wetland crossing in environmentally sensitive areas to provide access for aspen regeneration harvests.

Becoming an Outdoors Woman – Contributed \$2,500 toward weekend-long Becoming an Outdoors Woman program.

Becklin Acquisition – Final contribution of \$1,500 toward the purchase of a private tract from a willing seller for transfer to the Department of Natural Resources. This tract consolidates existing state holdings where the ownership and forest landscapes are particularly fragmented.

Youth Days – Contributed \$1,100 toward two Youth Outdoor Education Days held in cooperation with other wildlife conservation organizations.

Missouri:

River Hills Forest Habitat Project – Continuation of young forest habitat management project across a three county area in East Central Missouri. Project activities in 2006 resulted in 603 acres of additional timber stand improvement to promote the regeneration of oak/hickory forest habitat. In 2006, RGS contributed \$11,500 to the project (\$5,000 to cover RGS annual pledge, \$6,500 was from an anonymous donation). In addition, RGS submitted and received an additional \$15,000 grant from the Missouri Bird Conservation Initiative for the project.

New Hampshire:

Piscassic - Contributed \$2,000 to the state for the non-commercial regeneration of shrubland habitats on the Piscassic WMA.

New York:

Partridge Run - Contributed \$2,800 to the Department of Environmental Conservation for the non-commercial regeneration of shrubland habitats and existing stands of mature aspen on the Partridge Run WMA.

Pennsylvania:

Raystown Lake – Provided \$6,000 in financial support toward the preparation and administration of commercial timber sales.

Standing Stone – Provided \$1,182 to support the planting of coniferous trees on state forest lands in northeast Pennsylvania. These patches of conifers will provide ruffed grouse with important winter habitat.

Rhode Island:

Statewide Shrub - Worked on numerous state-owned properties to mechanically shear shrub-dominated habitats. Funding to date totals \$4,000.

Ruffed Grouse Research – Provided \$1,500 in support of an ongoing University of Rhode Island research project investigating ruffed grouse habitat utilization in the fragmented forest landscape of this region.

Tennessee:

Cherokee National Forest – Provided \$1,600 in financial support for the continuation of an ongoing project to reconstruct existing timber harvest access/hunter walking trail systems.

Vermont:

Green Mountain National Forest – Established cooperative project between RGS, Orvis and the National Forest to support the non-commercial regeneration of aspen and shrub-dominated communities. Funding to date totals \$8,800.

Statewide WMAs – Funded independent contract foresters to inventory forest habitats on approximately 1,500 acres of state Wildlife Management Areas. In addition, funding applied toward preparation and administration of timber sales on these tracts. 2006 funding totaled \$13,553; this funding was part of a grant to RGS from the VT State Legislature in 2004.

Virginia:

Augusta Springs – Provided \$2,513 toward the completion of the construction of several miles of a primary road access system. Road system will provide an opportunity to initiate timber sales on several thousand acres of state lands.

Wisconsin:

Marathon County Forest – Currently in third year of a five year project to regenerate approximately 40 acres of upland alder habitat in a historic woodcock breeding and migratory use area. In 2006, RGS contributed \$500 to the project. An informational sign about the project was constructed and placed along a major road in the project area and a dedication was conducted.

Oconto County Forest – RGS contributed \$1,500 to initiate the 7,000 acre South Branch Unit Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Unit Project. Initial work included the placement of three gates to reduce motorized access, improvements of two hunter walking trail loops and the placement of a project informational sign along the county highway bordering the project. In addition, volunteers from several Wisconsin RGS chapters and the local Breed Sportsmen's Club conducted a work day in the area.

Price County Forest – RGS contributed \$3,000 to initiate the Catawba Fire Lane Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock Management Unit Project. Initial work was conducted to construct access roads for timber sales in a large block of mature aspen and future hunter walking trails. Timber sales are being laid out to create small units of regenerating aspen to begin improving the age class diversity in the area.

STATE LEVEL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Media:

Worked with TV, radio and print media on approximately 110 occasions to appear on camera or radio, author articles and RGS press releases, and provide background information for relevant stories.

External Outreach:

Conducted approximately 90 seminars/meetings/shows with publics external to RGS to promote understanding of RGS mission. Attendance at seminars/meetings was approximately 1800; contacts at shows have not been quantified.

On-site Landowner Consultations:

Approximately 35 consultations were conducted for individual private landowners who control approximately 5,400 acres of forestland.

Alaska:

Reviewed progress of habitat management activities on 3 project sites with representatives of the Department of Fish & Game and local Chapters.

Met with Department of Interior officials in Washington to promote the expansion of small game hunting opportunities on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

Developed draft input for Anchorage Chapter re proposal from US Fish & Wildlife Service to establish small game hunting on Kenai National Wildlife Refuge.

Connecticut:

Participated in Statewide Forest Planning meetings as a member of the Public Land Stewardship Committee. Primary objective is to incorporate the tenets of the STATE forest plan into the thinking of the 200+ municipal conservation commissions responsible for municipal and town forests in Connecticut. The recurrent message is “you must actively manage and harvest your forests for them to retain the very qualities you hold them for: healthy timber and high quality wildlife habitats”.

Attended the Department of Environmental Protection’s Citizens Advisory Council meeting on behalf of RGS Connecticut River Valley Chapter (which holds a seat on the council). Worked with Council members to provide input to season/bag/methods discussions for DEP legislative work this fall.

Georgia:

Worked with Chapter volunteers to outline strategy to address habitat management needs on Chattahoochee National Forest.

Reviewed and provided technical input regarding 2 proposed projects on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

Provided technical advice to state to aide in the establishment of a grouse drumming survey.

Worked with local RGS chapter, state agency and The Nature Conservancy to coordinate volunteers to conduct grouse drumming surveys.

Worked with Department of Natural Resources to identify potential project opportunities on state lands.

Illinois:

Reviewed Shawnee National Forest Revised Plan Final Environmental Impact Statement to identify opportunities for young forest habitat development.

Iowa:

Worked with Department of Natural Resources to implement new Management Area Project on the Yellow River State Forest. Conducted field audit of existing cooperative projects on the Forest.

Worked with Iowa Chapter members and Department of Natural Resources staff to identify opportunities for obtaining future funding for potential projects in NE Iowa.

Kentucky:

Worked with various agencies and other interested parties to establish guidelines for surface mine reclamation that will benefit ruffed grouse and other forest wildlife.

Provided technical assistance to enhance young forest habitats on a project on the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Maine:

Worked with Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to ascertain potential impact of late-season hunting mortality on ruffed grouse population.

Maryland:

Toured Frederick City Watershed Wildlife Management Area to identify habitat management project opportunities with state agencies and the local chapter.

Coordinated transport of heavy brush/tree cutting equipment for use by the state to establish shrub-dominated habitats on state lands.

Massachusetts:

Worked with Upland Game Ad Hoc Committee and the New England Forestry Foundation to identify opportunities for coordinated habitat management activities.

Worked with Divisions of Wildlife and Fisheries and Wildlife Board, Wildlife Management Institute and private landowners to outline the inclusion of large private land holdings into the Northeastern American Woodcock Initiative.

Attended Massachusetts Forestry Association meetings to discuss forest management issues, and specifically to draft an MFA position and response to MA EOEI initiative to institute “forest reserves” that eliminate all active management on thousands of acres of public forest in MA. Named to Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Forestry Association.

As member of MA Natural Resource Conservation Service Farm Bill Committee, met to discuss Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program for upcoming Farm Bill reauthorization. Established WHIP practices and payment schedules for incorporation into state WHIP plan.

Attended MA DCR hearing on draft Mass. Endangered Species Act “Conservation Management Practices” and provided testimony to promoting a balanced approach to ensure that all declining species, both mature and young forest dependant or inclined, are recognized as being recognized as important to consider.

Developed Memorandum of Understanding with New England Forestry Foundation for final signature and press event.

Toured Management Area Program Project on the Freetown State Forest with Region 1 DCR foresters to review recent habitat management activities.

Coordinated efforts of various groups to promote greater management on public lands and a reassessment of state plans for increasing forest reserve acreage.

Michigan:

Finalized Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Ottawa National Forest to conduct cooperative habitat projects on the Forest. RGS will provide technical and financial support for projects established under this agreement.

Met with Hiawatha National Forest wildlife staff and partnership coordinator to identify future cooperative management opportunities for ruffed grouse and woodcock.

Met with Michigan United Conservation Club representatives of the forest products industry and local RGS Chapter to discuss possible appeal of Forest Plan Revision decisions on the Ottawa and Hiawatha National Forests.

Gave presentation on grouse and woodcock management concerns in relation to the Hiawatha National Forest Revised Plan to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.

Provided technical assistance to enhance young forest habitats on 4 proposed habitat management projects on the Hiawatha National Forest.

Provided technical assistance to enhance young forest habitats on 7 proposed habitat management projects on the Ottawa National Forest.

Provided technical assistance to enhance young forest habitats on 2 proposed habitat management projects on the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

Worked with RGS pro-bono legal counsel to file for intervention in preservationist appeals to the Ottawa NF Plan.

Worked with RGS pro bono legal counsel to file RGS appeal of the Hiawatha National Forest Revised Forest Plan.

Worked with Pro-bono Attorney Ryan Woody to provide comments to Multiple Use Coalition intervening in appeals to Michigan National Forest Plans. RGS was one of the coalition members.

Initiated a 5-year challenge cost-share project agreement with the Hiawatha National Forest.

Provided comments on draft Michigan State Forest Management Plan in support of increased aspen regeneration harvests on state lands.

Finalized MOU with the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative identifying RGS as a supporter of bird conservation activities in the state.

Minnesota:

Met with US Department of Agriculture officials US Forest Service Chief to press agency to institute aspen regeneration harvests on Chippewa National Forest at levels consistent with the Revised Forest Plan.

Participated as a member of the DNR Non-toxic Shot Advisory Committee to provide input regarding potential additional regulations limiting the use of lead shot. Final recommendations presented to DNR Commissioner in December.

Addressed the annual Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Roundtable – a gathering of 200 conservation leaders from across the state.

Helped draft Threatened and Endangered Resources insert for the Minnesota Landowner Information Packet distributed through the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.

Participated in revision of the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Act.

Named to the Biomass Harvesting Guidelines Team of the Forest Resources Council.

Co-wrote a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Biomass Harvesting as a Wildlife Management Tool”. Presented “Biomass Harvesting as a Wildlife Management Tool” at the Biomass Harvesting Workshop set up by UMN-Extension.

Served as Chair of the Department of Natural Resources Budgetary Oversight Committee. Drafted a letter to legislators on BOC legislative recommendations. Met with Natural Resource Committee chairs on the legislative agenda. Attended hearings at the Capital.

Analyzed the Thunderhawk Environmental Impact Statement for expansion of the UPM-Kymmene Blandin Paper Company facility in Grand Rapids, MN, and provided technical input regarding the proposal.

Participated in initial development phase of a University of Minnesota-Extension pilot on-line training module for private forest landowners.

Provided technical assistance to promote young forest habitats on one proposed project on the Chippewa National Forest.

Provided technical assistance to promote young forest habitats on 2 proposed projects on the Superior National Forest.

Inspected ongoing habitat management activities on the 760-acre Mary Sandstrom Ruffed Grouse Management Area.

Assessed potential impacts of Forest Stewardship Council's Corrective Action Requests for the Itasca County Land Department and presented findings to Grand Rapids Chamber Forestry Affairs Committee.

Served as guest instructor at Vermillion Community College in Ely to teach session of the Wildlife Aspects of State-wide Site-level Forest Management Guidelines.

Facilitated the purchase of an Arctic Cat ATV for the University of Minnesota to continue grouse research at Cloquet.

Gave presentation on ruffed grouse and woodcock biology and hunting to Becoming and Outdoors Woman class.

Discussed potential for cooperative external relations opportunities with Minnesota Forest Industries.

Reviewed project site potential with various state and county resource management agencies.

Coordinated review of administration of administrative protocols associated with a grant from the Legislative and Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources.

Worked with two utilities companies to identify potential opportunities for cooperative habitat management project on rights of way.

Missouri:

Provided technical assistance to enhance effectiveness of ruffed grouse habitat management development on the River Hill's Forest Habitat Project.

New Hampshire:

Coordinating the collection of ruffed grouse wings and tails from hunters in New Hampshire to determine sex and age composition of the harvest.

Attended the annual Wildlife Summit meeting to identify strategic wildlife grant opportunities beneficial to ruffed grouse and woodcock.

Attended and participated in press event regarding joint partnership of RGS/University of New Hampshire/Department of Fish & Game and Stonyfields Yogurt Inc. on a New England Cottontail Habitat initiative on UNH Forest.

Attended meeting hosted by the Department Fish & Game and the Wildlife Management Institute regarding status of the Northeastern American Woodcock Initiative to determine priorities for the establishment of woodcock habitat demonstration sites.

Attended annual meeting of the Coverts Board of Advisors to review 2005 program and set goals and priorities for 2006.

Toured Management Area Project on the Piscassic Wildlife Management Area in Epping NH and a potential project on the University of New Hampshire campus - UNH forester is interested in setting up a demonstration forest site.

Worked with Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill Technical Committee to finalize wildlife habitat treatment allowable practices, cost reimbursements and the 2007 NH WHIP plan.

Worked with New Hampshire Wildlife Federation on response to Sierra Club appeal of the Than Brook timber harvest on White Mountain National Forest.

New Jersey:

Provided technical assistance to enhance woodcock habitat on Assunpink Wildlife Management Area.

Worked with Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area to facilitate the sharing of equipment and resources to maintain young forest habitats on the Area.

New York:

Consulted with staff at Fort Drum to provide input into ongoing habitat management work at the Fort. Finalized a Memorandum of Understanding with Fort to formalize RGS involvement.

Met with RGS Executive Director and State Legislature promote a revision to “current use” law to include wildlife biologists as authorized plan writers.

Worked with Department of Environmental Conservation biologists to identify opportunities to co-fund statewide early-successional habitat initiative to match available federal funds.

Provided presentations on RGS programs and the findings of the Appalachian Cooperative Grouse Research Project at an Early Successional Habitat conference in Rensselaerville, NY. Roughly 70 biologists and foresters with NYSDEC and other NY organizations attended.

Identified process by which RGS funding can be applied to on-the-ground work w/o DEC administrative expense at the Partridge Run Wildlife Management Area.
Gave presentation on ruffed grouse biology and management at Delaware County Cornell Coop Extension’s “Friday Forestry” program. Delhi, NY.

North Carolina:

Provided technical assistance to enhance young forest habitats on 6 proposed habitat management projects on the Nantahala/Pisgah National Forests.

Participated in workshop addressing forest management and riparian area management at the Coweeta Hydrologic Research Station.

Ohio:

Worked with other organizations to acquire a property for eventual disposition to the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

Provided written comments for Wayne National Forest and other interested parties as response to Sierra Club et al. appeal of Forest projects.

Pennsylvania:

Establish a cooperative agreement with the Pennsylvania Game Commission to facilitate the use of RGS habitat management equipment on 1.4 million acres of State Game Lands.

Coordinated the “Woodcock Festival” at Bald Eagle State Park.

Trained PGC foresters, land managers and biologists on grouse and woodcock habitat management (southwest region).

Met with Conservation Fund and the Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources on behalf of R.K. Mellon Foundation. Developed a plan to manage newly acquired state forest tracts more aggressively for wildlife. Also discussed potential to acquire a tract and dedicate this tract to the establishment of young forest habitats.

Conducted harvest of overmature alder and aspen on the Steve Liscinsky Memorial Project on State Game Land 278.

Met with land managers at two private hunt clubs to identify opportunities for ruffed grouse and woodcock habitat management.

Toured mine reclamation site with Game Commission, Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources, and local volunteers to identify opportunities for early successional management.

Provided technical assistance to enhance shrubland habitats 2 project sites for Game Commission.

Visited site of mitigation project with Mackin Engineering, flagged boundaries of woodcock management area and coordinated the logistics of machinery transport.

Met with PennDOT, USFWS, DEP, Fish and Boat, Game Commission, NRCS, Mackin Engineering, and RGS volunteers about wetland mitigation project.

Provided technical input during public meeting regarding the Forest Plan Revision for the Allegheny National Forest.

Gave 3 different presentations for landowners attending the Pennsylvania Coverts workshop coordinated by the Pennsylvania State University.

Gave presentation of forest wildlife management to PSU Forestry Extension workshop.

Attended National Hunting and Fishing Day rally at State Capitol Building.

Transported CAT and mower to Lackawanna State Forest.

Conducted 3 woodcock singing-ground surveys.

Tennessee:

Provided technical assistance to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency during its review and revision of the state ruffed grouse management plan.

Vermont:

Worked with the Vermont Traditions Coalition to identify legislative agenda and priorities for increasing the visibility of sporting and habitat management issues. Worked with the Forest Resource Committee of the joint Vermont Forest Products Association/Associated Industries of Vermont to coordinate efforts regarding forest management issues in the Northeast and nationally.

Worked with various interest groups to coordinate an effort to modify the proposed Forest Plan for the Green Mountain NF to significantly increase young forest habitats on the Forest.

Researched, wrote and filed formal Intervener Comments in support of Green Mountain NF Plan Appeals filed by Vermont Traditions Coalition, Associated Industries of Vermont and Vermont Forest Products Association. Coordinated intervention efforts with other appellants and interested parties.

Worked with Orvis and the USFS to negotiate a agreement to fund significant habitat work on the Green Mountain National Forest. Forest Service will provide a cost-share of 51% for all RGS habitat work.

Worked with the University of Vermont to finalize research project designed to quantify public attitudes toward forest management.

Participated in a conference coordinated by VTF&W re: the future of hunting in Vermont and the northeast; provided RGS expertise on programs we have instituted to encourage women/youth participation.

Appointed to Gov. Douglas' Task Force on Fish and Wildlife Department funding.

Conducted forest walk for the Town of Waterbury Conservation Commission on the Waterbury Town forest (municipal watershed lands). Identified forest practices that were beneficial to wildlife and made suggestions for future management to enhance public recreation re: hunting and wildlife viewing. Potential project partnership was formed.

Virginia:

Helped coordinate state-wide effort involving state resource agency, RGS and other wildlife conservation organizations, representatives of the forest products industry and the media to ensure that the Plan Revision for the George Washington National Forest includes significant habitat support for habitat development beneficial to ruffed grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife of young forests.

Provided technical input regarding the development of young forest habitats for 3 proposed projects on the George Washington/Jefferson National Forest.

West Virginia:

Conducted field review of proposed project on the Monongahela National Forest to ascertain benefits for ruffed grouse.

Worked with the forest products industry to identify potential project opportunities on the Monongahela National Forest.

Provided input on proposal to expand wilderness area designation on the Monongahela National Forest.

Attended meeting at Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge with US Fish & Wildlife Service, state agencies and volunteers regarding woodcock management on large piece of private land adjoining the Refuge.

Participated in Steering Committee meeting for the Mead-Westvaco Ecology Research Forest.

Worked with the state agency to identify potential project sites and submitted grant application to generate funding for these activities.

Lectured at West Virginia University's Traditions of Hunting class.

Wisconsin:

Provided technical assistance to enhance young forest habitats on 15 proposed management projects on the Chequamegon/Nicolet NF.

Met on numerous occasions with Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest field staff to resolve Society concerns regarding Forest-wide habitat management recommendations regarding riparian areas and to identify cooperative opportunities to promote young forest habitats.

Provide RGS comments on National Forest Certification Pilot Evaluation for the Chequamegon/Nicolet NF.

With local Chapters, coordinated NE Wisconsin Chapter Habitat Work Day on the Chequamegon/Nicolet National Forest that was attended by 20 RGS members and 3 representatives of the US Forest Service.

Provided comments to Governor Doyle on proposed Roadless Area Petition the Governor must forward to US Forest Service for review.

Worked with federal and state wildlife personnel to develop a coordinated bird monitoring plan for Wisconsin.

Conducted field audit of progress to-date on 2 cooperative alder regeneration projects with the Department of Natural Resources.

Participated as a third party auditor during a joint Forest Stewardship Council – Sustainable Forestry Initiative audit of Wisconsin State Forests.

Met with Department of Natural Resource biologists at various locations to identify opportunities for cooperative habitat management projects.

Attended initial meeting of a proposed Vernon County biomass fuel project that will utilize small-diameter trees from private forestlands to enhance young forest wildlife habitats.

Developed a cooperative habitat development program with Louisiana Pacific targeting private landowners in northern Wisconsin.

Authored ruffed grouse species account for the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative's All-Bird Plan.

Met with biologist at the US Army's Fort McCoy to discuss management opportunities on that Federal property.

Represent RGS at Wisconsin Coverts Reunion and spoke on what has been learned in the last 10 years in terms of grouse and woodcock management.

Gave presentation on forest wildlife management at Wisconsin Woodland Owner's Association annual field day.

Reviewed draft resource guide for private landowners being developed by the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association. The Ruffed Grouse Society is one of the organizations highlighted as a source of information in the brochure and contact information is included.

Provided forest and wildlife management field presentation to a Boy Scout forestry merit badge class of 12 – 16 year old scouts from the Milwaukee area.

Gave presentation on forest wildlife management at Kretz Lumber Company Forestry Field Day.

Gave presentation to the 2006 Master Woodland Stewards Class on the importance of young forest habitats to wildlife species.

Gave presentations at two FISTA Wildlife Management Training Workshops for loggers from Michigan and Wisconsin.